

REMARKS

Claims 18-35 were previously pending in the application. Applicant hereby withdraws claims 19-23 and 30-35 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Restriction Requirement

In the Restriction Requirement dated October 31, 2006, the Examiner states, "Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121...." (See, Detailed Action, page 2). In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has identified 5 species of claims:

Species A directed towards Fig. 1 2;

Species B directed towards Fig. 3;

Species C directed towards Fig. 4,5;

Species D directed towards Fig. 6; and

Species E directed towards Fig. 7.

Applicants elect the claims in Species A, claims 18 and 24-29, with traverse, for prosecution on their merits. Further, Applicant has withdrawn the claims to the non-elected Species B-E without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully traverses on the ground that the Examiner has not explained why the species are independent or distinct. The Examiner has also not explained why, if at all, a search of all the claims in the application would be burdensome.

Conclusion

Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims of Species B-E at a later date. Entry of this election/restriction and an early favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate examination of the application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided. Although Applicant believes that no additional extensions of time are necessary, should the Commissioner deem further extensions necessary, such extension is hereby petitioned for. Also, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees any fees which may be required to Deposit Account 03-1240, No. 17233.012.

Respectfully submitted,
CHADBOURNE & PARKE, L.L.P.

Dated: November 30, 2006

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